ELINOR WONDERS WHY

216A "Blackout!"
By: Katherine Sandford

Elinor's question: What are shadows?
Simple answer: A dark area or shape that's made when something comes between light and a surface.
Logline: There's a blackout in Animal Town so Elinor makes a shadow play for her Mom!
Scientist: Jorge Cham

Main Curriculum Goal: EPS16. Begin to explore light and the idea that some materials block all the light creating a dark shadow on any surface beyond them, where the light cannot reach.
a. Observe one's own shadows and shadows of other things (both indoors and outdoors), noticing that shadows are observable when there is a light (sun or moon is shining, flashlight) but not observable on a cloudy or dark day or indoors when the lights are out.
b. Observe and investigate relationships between the size and shape of shadows by exploring a light source and a variety of objects to create shadows.
(Elinor explores and experiments with shadows created by the moonlight and the flashlight.)
SEP1. Asking questions:
Demonstrate curiosity about the greater world outside of their local environment.
Ask more complex questions about observable phenomena.
Ask and/or identify cause and effect questions that can be answered by an investigation.
Identify a problem that can be solved by the design of a new or improved object or tool.
SEP3. Planning and carrying out investigations:
c. Demonstrate an ability to make and test predictions based on background knowledge and experiences. ()
SEP8. Obtaining, evaluating, and communicating information:
c. Describe observable phenomena using adjectives and labels.
(Elinor and her Dad ask question, investigate and describe and label the attributes of the shadows)

MAINS: Elinor, Dad, Ranger Rabbit
LOCATIONS: Elinor's room, staircase/foyer, living room
PROPS: craft supplies, paper Ranger Rabbit, paper bird, spider and butterfly, flashlight, coatrack with coat and ranger hat, tub with brooms and mops, book, bowl.

CH_ELINOR_PAJAMAS
CH_MISTER_RABBIT_CASUAL (NO POUCH)

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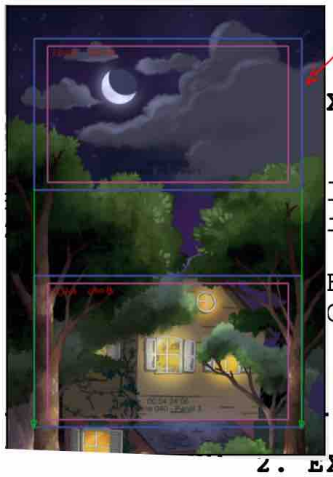
First Draft: July 17, 2023
Second Draft: July 28, 2023
Polish Draft: August 17th, 2023
RECORD DRAFT: August 24, 2023

EXT_ELINOR_HOUSE_003K



FOLLOW PAN IN IMAGE.

XT. ELINOR'S HOUSE - NIGHT

a pale, moonlit night just after a storm - maybe we see last few flashes of lightning on the horizon. It's still ing a little bit <SFX: RAIN>

E ON: Through the brightly-lit bedroom window, we see OR and MR. RABBIT busily at work at her craft table.

2. EXT. ELINOR'S ROOM - NIGHT

Elinor and Mr. Rabbit are working on a coloring project on a big piece of paper.

1 ELINOR
Good job coloring the trees green, Dad.

MR. RABBIT
Why, thank you, Elinor. You saying so really makes me (grinning) "green."

ELINOR
<giggles> Oh, Dad. (pause) Do you think Mom will like this story we're drawing for her?

4 MR. RABBIT
I'm sure of it.

5 ELINOR
I want to make her a story about how great she is as a forest ranger.

ANGLE ON: their drawing. (ELINOR + DAD POINTING)

6 ELINOR (CONT'D)
See, she's gonna be helping a spider, a bird, and a butterfly.

7 MR. RABBIT
And don't forget the green trees.

8 ELINOR
Mm-hm. (beat) When is mom coming home?

9 MR. RABBIT
Soon, I think.

ON DRAWIN

INT_ELINOR_BDRM_009A

int_elinor_bdrm_009a

BACKDROP FOR ELINOR + DAD.

INT_ELINOR_BDRM_021

1

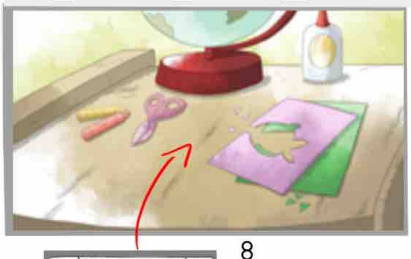
3

4

5

REMOVE ALL ITEMS ON DESK + REPLACE W/ DRAWING + CRAYONS.

int_elinor_bdrm_020



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9

INT_ELINOR_BDRM 009A.

10 ELINOR 10
Not too soon, I hope. We still haven't finished the drawing.

ON DRAWING

11 MR. RABBIT 11
What color should I make these flowers?

INT_ELINOR_BDRM_009A

12 ELINOR 12
Mmm, how about... orange.

13 MR. RABBIT 13
Oh, well, "orange" you... a great color picker.

Suddenly, ALL the lights go out. *Pitch black!*

14 ELINOR
<GASP!> What happened?

15 MR. RABBIT
It looks like the lights went out.

CUT IN ON ELINOR. SHE TURNS TO LOOK AT DAD.

16 ELINOR 16
Why?

17 MR. RABBIT
The power must have been cut off because of the storm. Don't worry. I'm sure it'll come back soon.

CUT IN ON DAD

Let's go get a flashlight from downstairs.

WIDE

EXT SL — Elinor and her Dad head to the door - ~~Elinor looks around her room. The moonlight coming in the window makes strange shadows~~.

INT_ELINOR_LIV_RM_002

REMOVE TREE

3. INT. STAIRCASE/FRONT HALL - NIGHT — SEE NEXT PAGE FOR LIVING ROOM SETUP

Elinor and Mr. Rabbit stroll down the stairs, looking around. ANGLE ON: The shadowy house from Elinor's POV seems a little strange.

E & DAD WALKING DOWN, LOOKING INTO LIVING ROOM

CAM PAN →

ELINOR
Do you think the lights are out all over Animal Town? - DAD THEN WALKS OFF SL

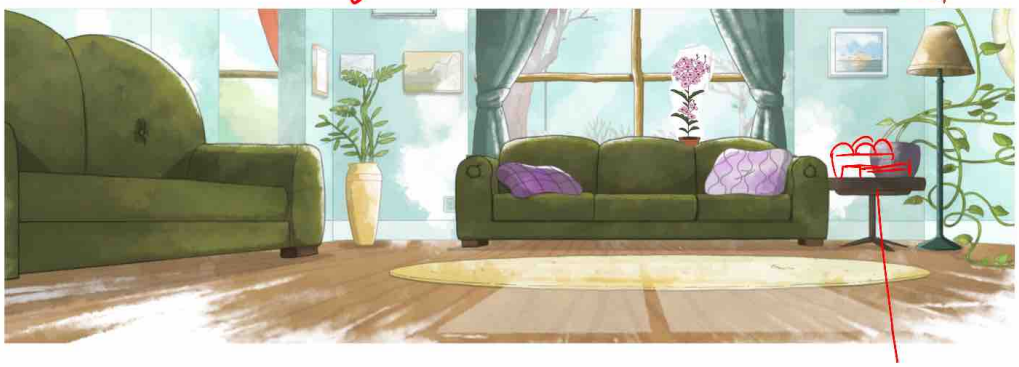
At the bottom of the stairs, Dad sticks his head out the front door. INT_ELINOR_LIV_RM_010C

19 MR. RABBIT 19
Probably, but I'm sure your mom and Ms. Beaver are working to fix it.
-CLOSES DOOR

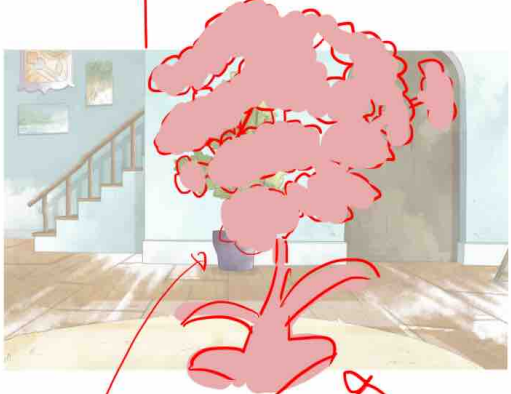
DOOR OPENS

EXT_ELINOR_HOUSE_026A.

DUPLICATE LAMP & REPLACE FLOOR PLANT



REPLACE PLANT W/ BOWL OF APPLES & BOOK.



REMOVE POTTED PLANT.

PR_BUTTERFLY_PLANTS.

REMOVE BOOKSHELF & HANGING PLANT AND PLACE COAT RACK

INT. LIVING ROOM - NIGHT

Elinor and her Dad enter the shadowy living room. Dad goes to the small table (where they checked for paper in the Paper Quest episode).

20 MR. RABBIT 20
Until then, we have our mighty...

APPROACHING TABLE (DOESN'T HAVE TO START OFF SCREEN)

DIGGING IN DRAWER.

He rummages in the drawer and pulls out a...

21 MR. RABBIT (CONT'D) 21
...FLASHLIGHT!

<CLICK> Mr. Rabbit triumphantly turns it on. Nothing.

22 MR. RABBIT (CONT'D) 22
Uh-oh, it looks like it needs new batteries. No problem, there's some in the kitchen. Wait here, Elinor. I'll be right back.

MID SHOT

WIDE. DAD EXITS SR.

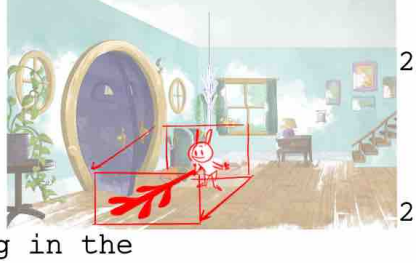
Mr. Rabbit takes off to the kitchen, leaving Elinor momentarily alone. She looks around nervously and then starts sauntering through the darkness. Suddenly, she sees something that puzzles her.

-CUT TO MED SHOT OF ELINOR. SHE TAKES A FEW STEPS 3/4 LEFT

23 ELINOR 23
Huh?

-THEN CAM PANS TO CACTUS SHADOW ON FLOOR.

ANGLE ON: There's a big cactus-shaped shadow by the door. She didn't notice before.



24 ELINOR (CONT'D) 24
Is that a... cactus?

FRAMED ON SHADOW.

Elinor creeps forward bravely.

25 ELINOR (CONT'D) 25
What is a big cactus doing in the living room?

MED SHOT, - ELINOR TAKES A STEP BACK, SR. →

-CAM THE CUTS TO SHADOW ON GROUND & PANS TO BASE OF RACK, THEN UP RACK.

ELINOR'S POV: ~~But as she gets closer,~~ she can see it's actually a large shadow cast by a coat stand/tree.

DESIGN NOTE: A coat stand/tree can look very much like a cactus. See the links at the bottom.

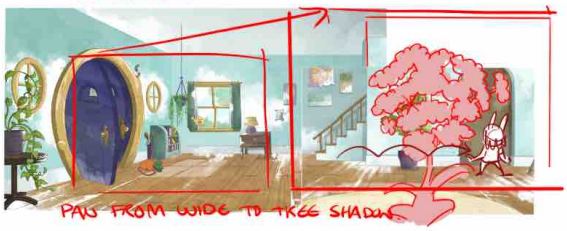
26 ELINOR (CONT'D) 26
(relieved giggling)
Oh, I see. The shadow of the coat stand looks like a cactus - that's so funny.
(MORE)

MED SHOT

WIDE, SHOWING ELINOR, SHADOW & COAT RACK.

-KEEP ELINOR PLACED WHERE SHE CAN SEE TREE SHADOW.

BG EXTENSION



ELINOR (CONT'D)
(turns)
Wait a minute, what's that?

PAN.

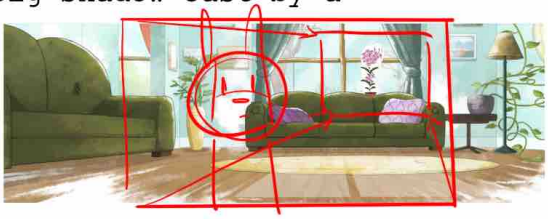
ANGLE ON: A large tree-shaped shadow looms behind her.

27 ELINOR (CONT'D) 27
A tree? In the house?

RUNNING INTO SCENE, AND STOPPING ON SR OF SHADOW, LOOKING UP AT IT.

As she gets closer, she can see another big shadow cast by a small house plant.

INT_ELINOR_LIV_RM_004



28 ELINOR (CONT'D)
(giggling)
Oooh, it's the SHADOW of this little plant.

LOOK FROM SHADOW TO FLOWER, THEN CAMERA TRUCKS IN ON FLOWER.

She looks more closely at the little houseplant, comparing it to the shadows.

ELINOR RUNS INTO SHOT + HOPS UP ONTO COUCH.

REPLACE PLANT WITH BOWL OF APPLES + BOOK.

29 ELINOR (CONT'D)
But the shadow looks so much bigger. I wonder why?

PANNING OVER TO SHADOW.

At that moment, Mr. Rabbit returns from the kitchen, brandishing the lit-up flashlight.

30 MR. RABBIT 30
I found the batteries for our mighty flashlight! We have LIGHT!

INT_ELINOR_LIV_RM_004

(lightsabre noise as he swings the flashlight around)
Whoo-whooaaa!

MED SHOT (TO HIDE LIGHT FLASHING AROUND ROOM

WIDE
- DAD FREEZES MID SWING
- ELINOR HOPPING OFF COUCH.

31 ELINOR 31
Hey Dad, I thought I saw a cactus growing in the house.

32 MR. RABBIT 32
A cactus?

INT_ELINOR_LIV_RM_011

She points to the first shadows near the door.

ELINOR 33
See! The shadow of the coat stand looks like a big cactus. And the shadow of that little plant looks like a big tree!

INT_ELINOR_LIV_RM_003. SIMILAR CAMERA MOVE FROM LINE 29, AS ELINOR FIRST POINTS AT FLOWER, THEN LEADS DAD TO TREE SHADOW.

Elinor points. Mr. Rabbit looks.

34 MR. RABBIT 34
Whoa, cool. It does look like a tree!

STEPPING PAST ELINOR, CLOSER TO TREE SHADOW.

- KEEP DAD POINTING FLASHLIGHT AT GROUND, TO NOT INTERFERE W/ CAST SHADOWS.

35 ELINOR 35
Shadows are sooo interesting. I wonder how they work.

36 MR. RABBIT 36
Good question. Here, take this.

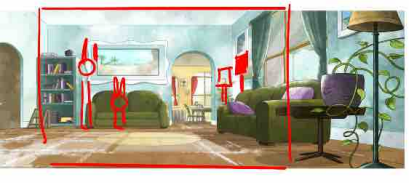
Mr. Rabbit hands her his flashlight.

37 ELINOR 37
Whoa! I can use the mighty flashlight?

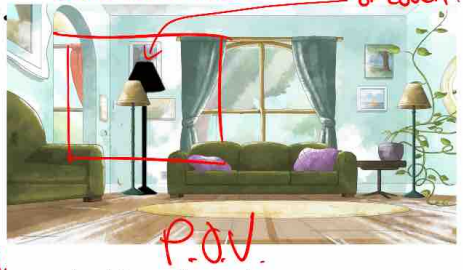
MED SHOT -SHES IN AWE OF THE FLASHLIGHT.

38 MR. RABBIT 38
I think you are ready, young grasshopper. But it's not just a flashlight. It will make SHADOWS. Give it a try!

Elinor points her flashlight at a nearby lamp.



INT_ELINOR_LIV_RM_004 - LAMP DUPLICATED & PLACED ON LEFT OF COUCH.



ELINOR
<GASP!> I made a shadow of the lamp!

MR. RABBIT
You sure did. What do you notice?

ON ARM OF COUCH.

Elinor sets the flashlight down (still pointing at the lamp) and walks up to the lamp and the wall to observe.

41 ELINOR 41
It looks like the lamp blocks the light from the flashlight from shining on the wall. And that makes the shadow!

INT_ELINOR_LIV_RM_004

42 MR. RABBIT 42
You figured it out!

Elinor puts her hand in front of the flashlight.

43 ELINOR 43
Dad look! My hand shadow is sooo big! And now it's getting smaller and smaller.

INT_ELINOR_LIV_RM_004 -FRAMED TO INCLUDE FLASHLIGHT ON COUCH ARM

She moves her hand away.

44 ELINOR (CONT'D) 44
Oh, I get it. When my hand gets closer to the flashlight, the shadow gets bigger, and when it's farther away, it gets smaller.

45 MR. RABBIT 45
Nice thinking. You noticed a pattern. Objects closer to the light make a bigger shadow.

46 ELINOR 46
I wonder what would happen if the FLASHLIGHT moved instead of my hand.

47 MR. RABBIT 47
Let's try it out.

MEANWHILE, ELINOR STEPS IN FRONT OF FRONT DOOR

Dad takes the flashlight and starts moving it around, focusing on Elinor.

WE WILL NEED A NEW LAYOUT OF A MORE STRAIGHT ON VIEW OF THE WALL W/ DOOR.

48 ELINOR 48
FACING DAD FIRST THEN TURNING AWAY TO LOOK AT DOOR
Oh, look, it's a shadow of me! Look at my ears. They're all stretchy and wiggly! Whoo-whoo-whoo.

Elinor moves around, getting into her shadow.

49 MR. RABBIT 49
ANGLE ON DAD
Yep, when I move the flashlight, the light hits you at different angles, so the shadows move around.

ANGLE BACK ON ELINOR & HER SHADOW.

Suddenly, Elinor gets an idea, and she looks toward the plant.

50 ELINOR 50
Wait a sec. How did the plant make a shadow when all the lights were out?

51 MR. RABBIT 51
Another great question from Elinor! What do you think?

TURNING OFF FLASHLIGHT, AND WALKING OVER TO ELINOR

Dad turns off the flashlight.

52 ELINOR 52
I think...we need MORE observations.
(she looks around and sees there is pale light coming in the window)
Wait! There *is* light coming through the window, but where's it coming from?

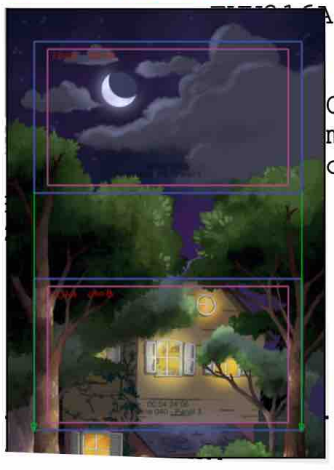
PAN ACCROSS ROOM (INT_ELINOR_LIV_RM_003), COMING TO A STOP ON THE FLOWER IN THE WINDOW BEHIND THE COUCH.

BACK ON ELINOR & DAD. ELINOR EXITS TOWARDS COUCH.

She runs to the window and looks out.

EXT_ELINOR_HOUSE_002C

EXT_ELINOR_HOUSE_603K (ELINOR'S P.OV., LOOKING AT MOON)



OR POV: She looks out the living room window and realizes moonlight is illuminating the coat rack, which casts a ow.

ELINOR (CONT'D) 53
<GASP!> Dad! It's the MOON! The light is shining off the MOON and ~~making shadows!~~ That's soo interesting!

INT_ELINOR_LIV_RM_603
-ELINOR TURNING TO LOOK BACK AT HER DAD.

MR. RABBIT 54
Should we see what else we can make shadows of?

WALKING IN TO JOIN HER. + TURNING ON FLASHLIGHT

55 ELINOR 55
Yeah. How about... an apple!

Elinor runs over and holds up an apple from a bowl on the end table by the couch.

SHE HOLDS UP BOTH AT THE SAME TIME.
~~Then she holds up a book.~~

TURNS TO LOOK AT SHADOWS

REPLACE PLANT W/ BOWL OF APPLES + BOOK.

56 ELINOR (CONT'D)
ELINOR STANDS IN FRONT OF FRONT DOOR AGAIN FOR HER DAD TO SHINE THE FLASHLIGHT AT HER.
And a book. (pause) Dad, I notice a round apple makes a round shadow, and a square book makes a square shadow.

57 MR. RABBIT 57
Yep, the shape of the object makes the shape of the shadow.

She puts the book + APPLE down, and then holds her two fingers in a "peace sign." ON FLOOR.

58 ELINOR 58
Dad look! I made a shadow bunny! Like me!

59 MR. RABBIT 59
Awesome, wait a sec.

ON FLOOR.
Dad puts down the flashlight in a good place and makes a dog shape with his fingers. (CROUCHING DOWN NEXT TO ELINOR)

60 MR. RABBIT (CONT'D) 60
(Mr. Dog's voice)
Oh, hello, Elinor! It's me, Mr. Dog.

ANGLE ON SHADOWS

61 ELINOR 61
(giggling)
Hey, Mr. Dog! What are you up to?

62 MR. RABBIT 62
(Mr. Dog's voice)
Oh, nothing much. There's a blackout, as you know. What are you doing?

ANGLE ON SHADOWS

63 ELINOR 63
We're making shadows...

Elinor moves her TWO hands in front of the flashlight. It looks a little like a butterfly.

64 ELINOR (CONT'D) 64
Hey Dad! Look at my hand. It looks like a butterfly.

ANGLE ON ELINOR + HER HANDS.

ANGLE ON BUTTER FLY SHADOW

65 MR. RABBIT 65
So it does.

ANGLE ON DAD

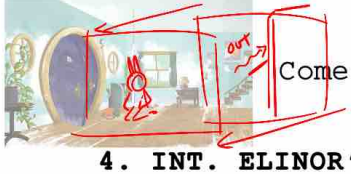
Elinor moves her hands a bit more.

66 ELINOR 66
Such a pretty butter...
(realizing)
<GASP!> Dad! We haven't finished my story for Mom! And she'll be home any minute.

ANGLE ON SHADOW
-THEN TRUCK OUT TO INCLUDE ELINOR + DAD.

67 MR. RABBIT 67
Uh-oh.

Elinor ~~takes the flashlight from him~~ PICKS UP FLASHLIGHT FROM FLOOR and heads towards the stairs.



68 ELINOR 68
Come on!

- SHOW ELINOR RUNNING UP STAIRS, OUT OF SIGHT, THEN PAN TO DAD, STILL KNEELING BY DOOR. HE STANDS W/ A SMILE, AS WE TRANSITION.

4. INT. ELINOR'S ROOM - NIGHT

Elinor (holding the flashlight) and her Dad come racing into the bedroom.

AND SITTING AT DESK.

69 ELINOR 69
I have so much to do!

70 MR. RABBIT 70
I'll hold the flashlight.

71 ELINOR 71
But then, how will you finish coloring the forest?

72 MR. RABBIT 72
Hmmm. Good point.

Elinor looks around despondently.

73 ELINOR 73
Aww. It's just too dark. I'll never finish my story before Mom gets home.

She accidentally waves her hand in front of the flashlight again.

74 ELINOR (CONT'D) 74
(thinks, then)
Wait a minute... I have an idea how we can tell Mom our story!

INT_ELINOR_ BDRM_ OUT. (EXTEND TO INCLUDE DOOR)

CROSSFADE TO:

OYER/LIVING ROOM - LATER THAT NIGHT

(DESIGN NOTE: It would be nice to start this with a sweep of headlights across the room, if possible.)

A beat or two then, the door opens, and Ranger Rabbit calls into the darkness.

75 RANGER RABBIT 75
(calling)
Hellooo! Where is everybody?

Mr. Rabbit greets her at the top of the stairs.

76 MR. RABBIT 76
Welcome home, honey. How's the power outage going?

DAD STAYING ON STAIRS

77 RANGER RABBIT 77
Ms. Beaver and her crew are almost done. The lights should be back on any minute.

CLOSING DOOR & TAKING OFF HAT

MR. RABBIT 78
Well, you'd better come up here. We have something to show you!

- GOING BACK UP STAIRS
- ANGLE ON MED SHOT OF MOM SMILING, AND EXITING TO FOLLOW.

INT_ELINOR_LIV_RM_010.

6. INT. ELINOR'S ROOM - NIGHT

Mr. Rabbit greets Ranger Rabbit at the door.

INT_ELINOR_BDRM_OUT (REMOVE DESK, BOOKSHELF & ITEMS ON LEFT WALL)

- DAD LEADS MOM PAST ELINOR + OFF SR →

ENT_ELINOR_BDRM_004.

MOVE STOOL TO PLACE FLASHLIGHT

MR. RABBIT 79
Why don't you take a seat over here?

RANGER RABBIT 80
Oookay...

Mr. Rabbit guides Ranger Rabbit past Elinor <SFX: GIGGLING> in the corner and settles her on the bed.

81 MR. RABBIT 81
Now, just relax... in the shadows!

Ranger Rabbit is a little puzzled, but she knows something is up.

82 RANGER RABBIT 82
In the shadows?

ON ELINORS DESK STOOL

Mr. Rabbit places the flashlight in a good, predetermined spot and turns it on. THEN SITS NEXT TO MOM.

The illuminated spot should not be that big. It should be about Elinor's height (see this doodle https://www.Drobox.Com/scull/fi/h7wd32whcxrcya4xhqz75/Screenshot_20230720_034030_OneNote.Jpg?Rekey=yt315sxn31x0vrcr2ec5wwdx2&dl=0)

Suddenly, Elinor's voice comes from the darkness.

INT_ELNOR_BDRM_016

83 ELINOR 83
(narrating voice)
Welcome to... our shadow story.

(DON'T SHOW ELINOR)

RANGER RABBIT 84
A shadow story? How interesting...

ELINOR 85
Once upon a time, there was a beautiful forest. And in the forest, there lived... a bird who loved to fly way up to the sky.

NOW FRAMED TIGHTER ON CIRCLE OF LIGHT.

Elinor makes a bird shape with her hands, flying up to the sky.

86 RANGER RABBIT 86
That looks just like a bird!

87 ELINOR 87
And a spider, who loved to crawl along the ground, like this -
(spider voice)
Crawl, crawl, crawl.

WE SHOULDN'T SEE ELINOR DURING PUPPET SHOW. FRAME ON SHADOWS.

Elinor makes her spider shadow crawl.

88 RANGER RABBIT 88
Very nice crawling spider.

89 ELINOR 89
(spider voice)
Thank you!
(normal voice)
...and a fluttery butterfly!

She makes a butterfly shadow with her hands fluttering around.

90 RANGER RABBIT 90
Wow, such realistic animals.

91 ELINOR 91
Except they're just shadows.

92 RANGER RABBIT 92
Oh, right.

93 ELINOR 93
But then one day there was a terrible storm…

Nothing happens. Elinor whispers to her father.

94 ELINOR (CONT'D) 94
Psst Dad!

95 MR. RABBIT 95
Oh, right.

STILL SITTING WITH MOM, DAD GETS OFF BED & KNEELS DOWN NEXT TO STOOL & AND PUTS FINGER ON FLASHLIGHT.

He jumps up and flashes the flashlight a few times like lightning while Elinor makes <SFX: STORM SOUNDS>.

96 ELINOR 96
(narrating)
And the butterfly, the spider and the bird got lost. Luckily, a hero was coming to save the day. A kind, smart, strong and very brave Forest Ranger named… Ranger Rabbit!

Mr. Rabbit makes a shadow that looks like Ranger Rabbit.

97 RANGER RABBIT 97
Hey, that really looks like me.

98 ELINOR 98
Yep, Dad is very good at shadows.

99 MR. RABBIT 99
Well, I'm happy to lend... a hand.

He puts his hand in the shadow and wiggles his fingers.

100 ELINOR 100
(giggle)
And when Ranger Rabbit came, she found all the animals and helped them all find their home. The bird flew up to its tree.

She makes the bird fly up out of the flashlight beam.

101 ELINOR (CONT'D) 101
The spider crawled off to its web.

She makes the spider crawl downwards out of frame (we don't have to see the web).

102 ELINOR (CONT'D) 102
And the butterfly fluttered home to its flowers - the end.

The butterfly flutters out of frame stage left.

103 RANGER RABBIT 103
What a wonderful story!

<SFX: MUM AND DAD CHEER AND CLAP - YAY!>

- IN WIDE, SHOWING GROUP.

But at the moment, the lights go on. <SFX: COLLECTIVE GASP!> as Elinor and her parents look around at the newly lit-up environment.

104 RANGER RABBIT (CONT'D) 104
It looks like the blackout's over.

STANDING UP.

105 MR. RABBIT 105
(realizing)
Hey! That means you can finish your drawings now, Elinor.

106 ELINOR 106
(disappointed, realizing)
Yeah, buuuut, I'd rather keep playing with the shadows. Can we turn off the lights?

Dad turns out the light and makes a Mr. Dog shadow.

107 MR. RABBIT 107
(Mr. Dog's voice)
You got it, Elinor <BARK! BARK!>.

All the Rabbit family make shadows with the flashlight.

108 ELINOR/RANGER RABBIT/ MR. RABBIT 108
(< AD-LIB GIGGLING AND HAVING FUN)
Oooh, nice one!/You make a bunny too, Mom!/ Oooh, a swan, good one, honey!

SHOW MOM CROUCHING DOWN W/ DAD + ELINOR IN THE LIGHT CAST FROM FLASHLIGHT. -THEN ANGLE ON SHADOWS.

PULL OUT on a cozy moment of the family having fun in the dark together.

FADE OUT

THE END.

-CLOSE W/ EXT_ELINOR_HOUSE_003K ANGLED ON HOUSE.

https://www.walmart.ca/en/ip/Standing-Coat-Rack-Stand-Hat-Wooden-Free-Tree-9-Hooks-Easy-Assemble-Jackets-Hanger-Bedroom-Hallway-Entryway-Entryway-Hallway-Bedroom-Offic/1YMLGG3XOD10

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